

PREFACE

The life of Jawaharlal Nehru is abundantly documented and my interest in the study of Jawaharlal Nehru arose after reading his remarkable pieces of writings in English like *Letters from a Father to his Daughter*, *Discovery of India* and many more and a host of other biographies on Nehru. The works on and by Nehru reveal that he was a great man and a leader of unbounded popularity and public esteem. Such a personality of historical importance shone in his own inexplicable glory. His statesmanship and his idealism have earned for him a unique place amongst the world's great men. He was a great humanist as he had a deep and abiding faith in humanity. He had a profound sense of history and great respect for India's people and heritage of India. His most outstanding contribution to the people of India was leading the country to freedom which forms a glorious chapter in the history of this nation. After independence he was the builder of modern India and he laid the firm foundation of a strong, vibrant and self-reliant India of his dreams. The impact of his vibrant and magnetic personality on all facets of life in modern India was all-pervasive and far-reaching. In the political field he remains a uniquely endowed personality comparable to the greatest leaders of all times. Fact remains that Nehru was fortunate in enjoying the association and collaborations of host of leaders cum nationalist both Indian and foreign who not only joined their hands in the anti-colonial movement but also dedicated themselves to the process of reconstruction of India after independence. Therefore, it may be seen that horde of works have been produced reflecting on these various facets of Nehru's life. However the present work would delve into another aspect of Nehru's life i.e. it would see how

women perhaps played an important role in moulding, nurturing and influencing the life of Nehru in various ways namely social, political, cultural and in the process contributed to the making of a great national and international leader and a great statesman of his time.

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